

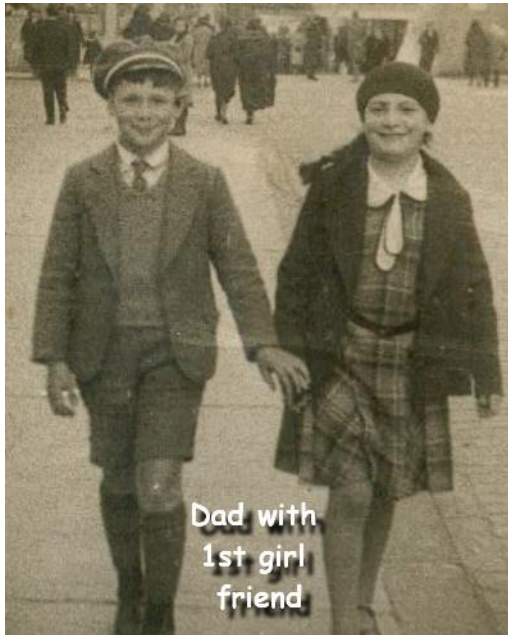
OCTOBER 2009 to December 2009

(Volume 29)





# OCTOBER 2009 (Volume 29)



Dad with  
1st girl  
friend



This album takes us to the end of 2009, a difficult year in many ways.

The pre-amble in the previous 'Photo Histories' probably gives a pretty accurate insight into how I feel as the months progress and are always fairly contemporary.

BA are currently threatening strike action over Xmas and that significant battle using the mass holiday exodus at Christmas as a bargaining tool is pretty low in my estimation. If they have grievances, and they may well have, I find it reprehensible that the public are used in this way. After all many people currently have very real financial problems and they are unable (and unwilling) to use others in a blackmailing role. BA has lost millions this year and I think it will go to the wall if this goes ahead.

Electric cars are being heralded as the way to forge a green future but my cynicism forces me to look deeper. Firstly they are tiny, with a battery capacity of only around 40 miles and when they run low one is stuck in a vehicle that can get you home at around 10 mph...how vulnerable is that!! Also how is the electricity generated? Methinks ...in a non-green way. I really think it is all posturing to say "look how green we are". While China opens massive coal-fired power stations with relentless speed what we are doing to stop pollution is like spitting in the ocean. I am older and much, much more cynical...

DP is away in Denmark making his feelings known at the Climate Debate where all nations seem to have reached a stalemate position and small developing countries object to the developed world dictating their progress.

Larnie is going out tomorrow with Lynn for a shopping session and 'ladies who lunch' and the both girls are looking forward to it. Flurries of snow are falling and more is promised.

Mum came with us last night to the Albert Hall to see a carol concert and we were in amazingly high seats at the very top looking down at the pinpoints 'miles' below which turned out to be the 60-strong adult choir, the 33-strong childrens choir and the 70-strong orchestra with the huge organ. It was fantastic and great fun with everyone joining in, in a light-hearted way. It was a struggle for Mum to get to her seat but she managed and enjoyed the evening.

I am getting hot meals ready tonight for a 'hot' delivery to an agency in Covent Garden and it is a culmination of problem-solving, getting hot meals to any location at an agreed time...but I always manage it. We have had a very positive customer feed-back/satisfaction return this year so that makes it worthwhile.

Lynn and I prepared a veggie meal for Angela's 40<sup>th</sup> last week and we took it down to Ipswich where we finished it on the Dutch barge that DP had chartered for the day. All their friends and kids really enjoyed it and thanked us profusely. The following day DP got a acquaintance who flies a helicopter to land on their lawn and Angela was taken for a surprise birthday flight. She was terrified but enjoyed it !!! Top that...

Looking forward to 2010 which we aim to make a special year...watch this space...



Tammy and Ben have just completed their grand new kitchen and Lynn, mum and I went round to toast its completion with tea and biscuits.. The dogs were dominant in the equation...







Two smiley faces two generations apart



Don't even think about ignoring them...it's not possible





The proud Tammy...it was worth all the problems and waiting...









The dining area



# Tammy juggling the two square plates







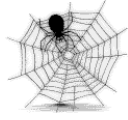
The horse's nose dive at Marble Arch





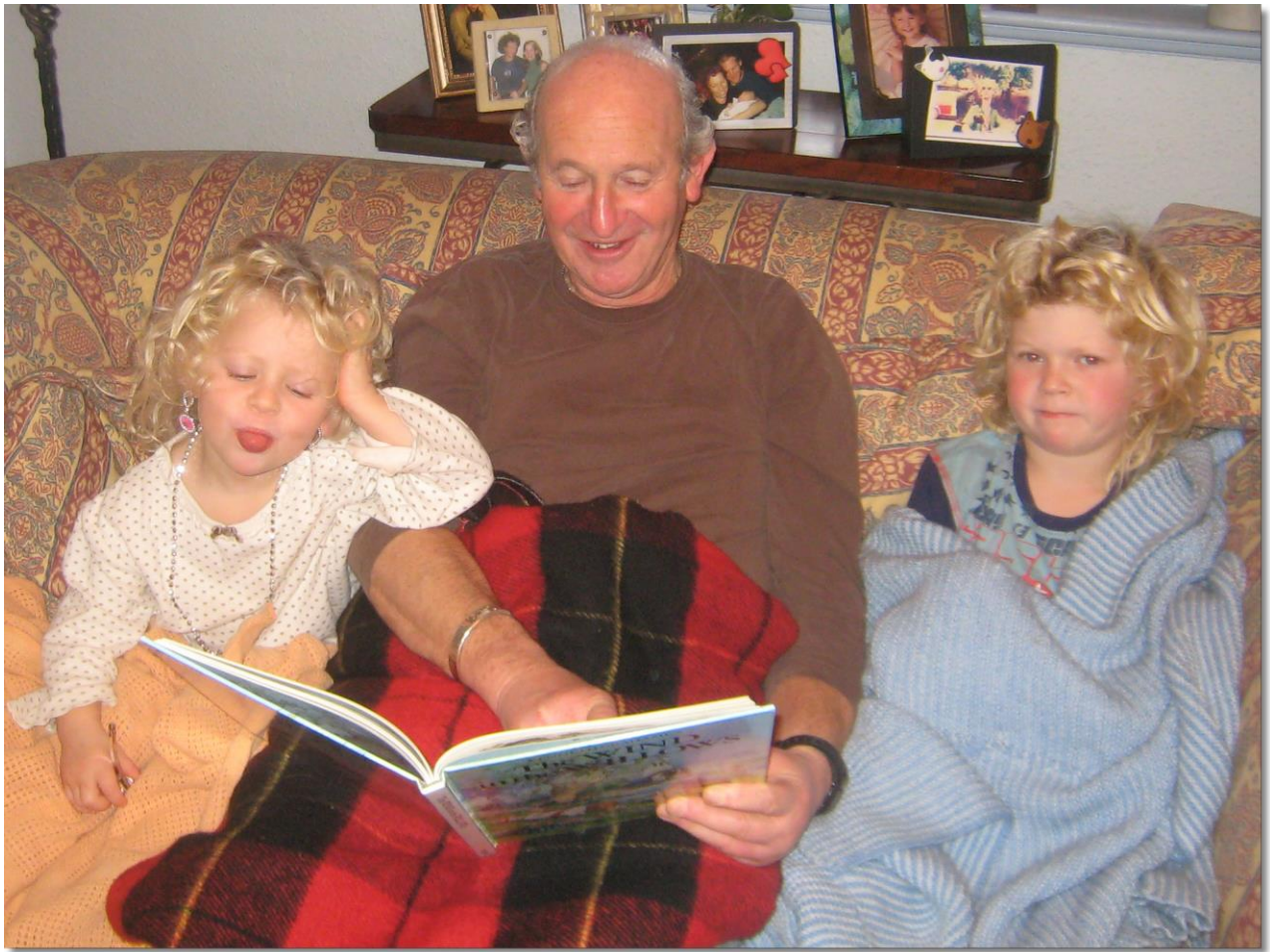
The joy of always having my camera with me enabled me to get this great rainbow against the forbidding sky above Trafalgar Square.





Autumn leaves on the brook at Whitewebbs





Storey time for the kids.

Beau came down with a sort of flu the next day (you can see his red cheeks here). This is one of the many pleasures of grandparenthood: watching their faces and asking them relevant questions when one is reading the story. It is amazing how much they absorb.

















A natural little actress...She won't let me take a photo now without crying "let me see..let me see"





All the kids adore the whiteboard and make straight for it when they arrive







Lynn eventually let Peachie have a go...





A sad little story there somewhere...







We catered for a 'tree-planting' day in Islington and here Jo looks like a kid mesmerised by the wood nymph



It was a fun day and even Santa(s) helped with the planting..



Trees are now growing on an inner-city London estate courtesy of [entrees-ontrays.com](http://entrees-ontrays.com)... a living memorial





Angela's 40<sup>th</sup> was celebrated in style with a chartered Dutch barge journey up the Orwell from Ipswich with lots of DP and Angelas' friends and children on board. We cooked up a meal for them and it went down a treat. An all veggie repast as requested...



Below deck.. There was even a coal fire to welcome us.





Surely you knew this was coming...just before the onslaught of the hungry passengers...







The captain with her willing crew (David taking a photo in his pirates hat). This is in Ipswich town at the start of the day.



The kids were so well behaved  
(just as well..the water was freezing)







After lunch Lynn and I took turns in steering the boat up river. It was a lot more precise than we realised and needed lots of concentration keeping our eyes on the channel buoys ahead





The kids behaved so well.

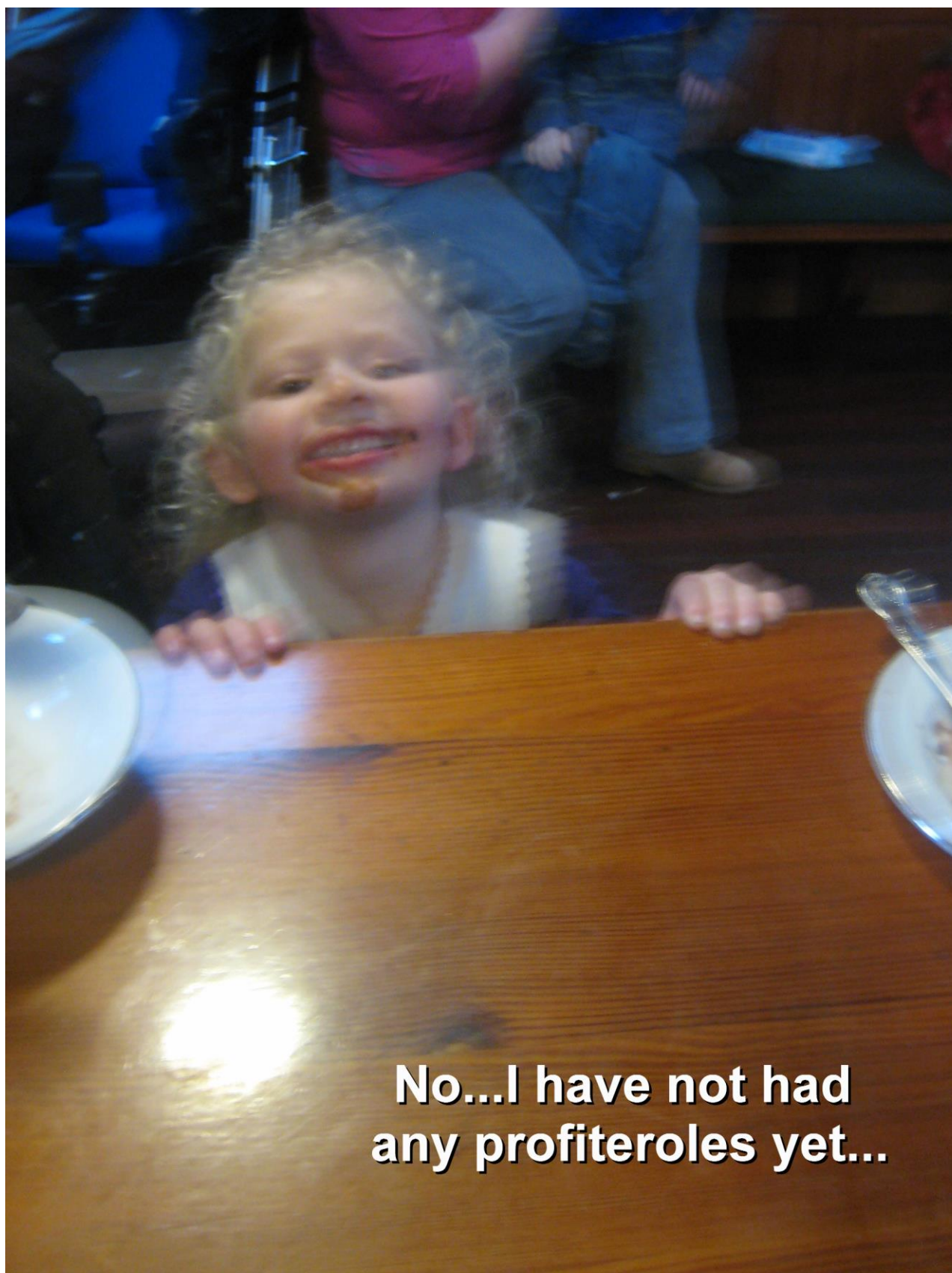




It was mighty cold on deck and we could not find Lynn anywhere....



...and then we remember the fire below deck...see that smile of contentment







Every Christmas Lynn and I (like two kids) go to see Polar Express in 3D at the Imax.



It is a much loved ritual and surprisingly every time we see it (and this must be the 5<sup>th</sup> year) we see something that we had missed previously. This is on the walk across London Bridge.



The lights in Oxford Street are vastly better this year and we (dare I say it) enjoyed shopping there....

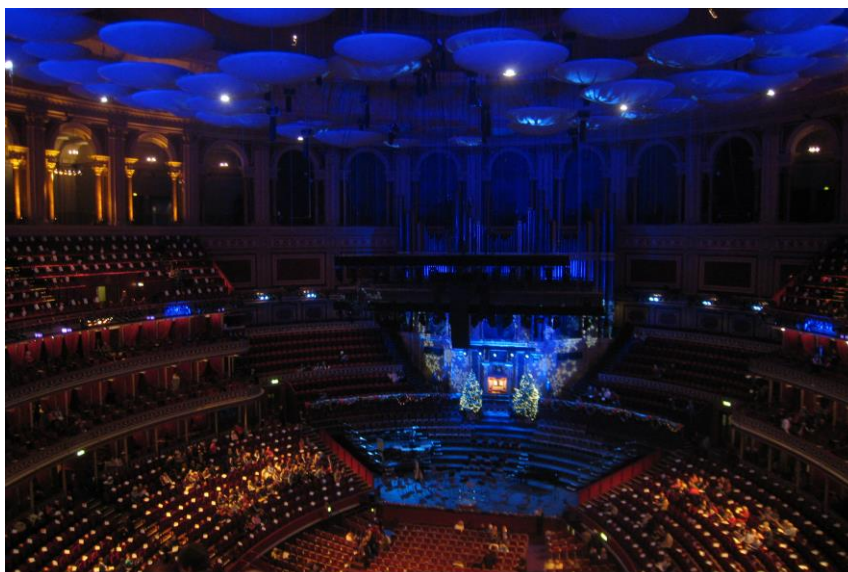








We took Mum to The Albert Hall for a carol concert and despite the climb to our seats in the eyrie mum really enjoyed it and it makes one wonder if at nearly 90 will we still be able (and willing) to undertake an outing like this??? Her face shows her obvious delight and believe it or not it was her first visit to the Albert Hall







Looks all set to be a white Xmas. This is in Trent Park a week before Christmas and at the time of writing (18<sup>th</sup> December) London is pretty much enveloped in snow.



A smaller book than usual but it finishes at the end of the year so is quite suitable.

Happy Christmas, happy Chanukah and a Happy New Year to all who read these pages....